

(c) the time by which the work on Koderma-Badakakhana railway line is likely to be started and completed; and

(d) the amount is likely to be incurred on this project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) New lines from Muzaffarpur to Sitamarhi, Ara to Sasaram, Patna to Hajipur including Ganga bridge and construction of a railway bridge on the river Ganga at Munger with rail links on both sides are proposed to be constructed, in addition to the works taken up earlier.

(c) At present only work on the first phase I on the proposed Girdih-Barkakhana-Ranchi new line, between Girdih and Koderma has been sanctioned. The work on the remaining portion would be taken up after completion of the first phase work.

(d) Will be known when work on this phase of the project is sanctioned, in the coming years.

[English]

Increase in Postmen

1449. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been increase in the number of new colonies but number of postmen has not been increased proportionately;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received by the Government regarding delay of postal mail/money orders/telegrams etc.; and

(c) the action, the Government propose to take to increase the number of postmen to ensure timely delivery of mail?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There has been increase in the number of new colonies but posts of Postmen cannot be linked with number of new colonies or increase in the population. The posts of postmen are created/sanctioned on the basis of certain norms which include number of articles delivered and distance traversed. In May, 1990, 90 posts of postmen were sanctioned for Speed Post Services. In 1990-91, 2359 posts of postmen and 151 post of Sorting Postmen were created. In 1992, six (6) posts of Postmen and one (1) post of Sorting Postmen were created for Noida Complex. A review of establishment is conducted from time to time in order to assess the justification for the essential posts and these are created/sanctioned with the approval of the Ministry of Finance (Deptt. of Expenditure) as and when considered necessary.

(b) The number of complaints received during 1995-96 regarding delay of postal mail/money orders/telegrams are as under :

	1995-96 (In Thousands)
(a) Postal mails (Unregistered)	16.4
(b) Money orders	278.3
(c) Telegrams	0.22
	(Per 100 Telegrams)

(c) The Department in 1991-92 had created a large number of operationally essential posts, which also include posts of Postmen necessary for smooth operation of the delivery system. Besides, this, to ensure smooth running of delivery system, the Department have delegated the powers to the Heads of Circles to re-deploy surplus posts of Group 'C' and 'D' (including the posts of Postmen). Under the delegated powers, posts of postmen found surplus in the establishment of one operative office can be re-deployed to another operative office where there is need for additional posts of postmen.

[Translation]

Survey for New Railway Lines

1450. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have taken decision to start survey work of new railway lines in Bina, Kurwai, Vyabara and Guna in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon and the time by which the above work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Bina, Kurwai, Biyavra and Guna are already linked by BG lines. However, a survey for linking Bina with Biyavara has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.

(c) The cost will become known only after survey report becomes available. No time frame can be fixed at this stage.

[English]

Investment in Electronic Media

1451. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Foreign investments

in electronic media allowed but with strings attached appearing in Times of India dated July 4, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor;

(c) the extent to which it is likely to affect our instruments of media and electronic media processings; and

(d) the steps taken to safeguards our indigenous electronic media?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Mumbai Railway Development Corporation

1452. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has taken a decision to set up a Mumbai Railway Development Corporation in collaboration with the Maharashtra Government on equal cost sharing basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Memorandum of Collaboration has since been finalised;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which the Memorandum of Collaboration is likely to be finalised and the Mumbai Railway Development Corporation registered under the Companies Act?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to set up Mumbai Rail Development Corporation as a wholly Government owned Company under the Companies Act, 1956 under the Ministry of Railways with equity participation by Ministry of Railways and Government of Maharashtra. The functions of Mumbai Rail Development Corporation, among others, will be:

- (1) Develop co-ordinated plans for the rail components to be included in MUTP-II and other planned investments in Mumbai suburban rail services and execute the resulting infrastructure projects.
- (2) Integrate urban development plans for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region with rail capacity plans and proposed investments.
- (3) Co-ordinate and ensure improvement of track drainage and the removal of encroachments and trespassers from the railway's right-of-way and station approaches.
- (4) Execute specific projects for the commercial development of railway land and apportion the net income in the ratio of 1:1:1 for Railway

project in Mumbai area, Maharashtra and elsewhere in the country respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The process of preparing Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Railways and Government of Maharashtra is underway.

Autonomy for Labour Revamp in Steel Sector

1453. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "FICCI demands autonomy for labour revamp in steel sector" appearing in the Financial Express dated July 9, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the policy of the Government over rationalisation of manpower deployment as essential requirement for economising production cost to be globally competitive;

(d) whether the Government have carried out any exercise on estimates of over deployment of manpower and formulated schemes for golden hand-shakes in the past and evaluation of such schemes in the past and effective strategies proposed to deal with the problem; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

Norms for Opening of Post Offices

1454. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the norms prescribed for the opening of new post offices;

(b) the number of new post offices proposed to be opened in the country during Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the number of new post offices are proposed to be opened in Orissa in above plan period;

(d) whether the Government propose to upgrade some post offices in the State of Orissa during the Ninth Plan period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The norms prescribed for opening new post offices are given in the attached Statement.